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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/724,967	12/01/2003	Soren Schroter	FRG 10300	3002

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EXAMINER

HEWITT, JAMES M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3679	

3679

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/724,967	Applicant(s) SCHROTER, SOREN	
	Examiner James M. Hewitt	Art Unit 3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/1/03, 4/1/04 and 9/14/05.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-20 and 28-41 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 21-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 01 December 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/1/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election of Species II (Figure 5) in the reply filed on 9/14/05 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claims 1-20 and 28-41 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 9/14/05.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because in Figure 3, there is no lead line for numeral 60 and there is an extraneous lead line adjacent numeral 60, and in Figure 4, the lead lines for numerals 22 and 24 do not extend from the numerals. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the

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sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

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The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Numeral 54 refers to the latching extensions and the collar section on pages 11 and 12 of the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claims 21-27 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 21 line 7, "the insertion direction" lacks proper antecedent basis.

In claim 24 line 2, should "a steeply flank" be "a steeply descending flank"?

In claim 25 lines 3-4, the phrase "at least one, preferably more" should be replaced with "at least one or more".

In claim 25 line 4, "the insertion direction" lacks proper antecedent basis.

In claim 26 line 2, "(130)" should be deleted.

In claim 27 lines 3-4, resistance of what? The connection section should be referenced in order to make clear the function of the descending flank.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshiharu et al (JP 10220654 A).

With respect to claim 21, Yoshiharu et al discloses a corrugated pipe connecting arrangement comprising a corrugated pipe with corrugations (5) extended transverse to its longitudinal axis, wherein said corrugated pipe is provided on at least one of its end regions with a connecting region (2) which is formed integrally with the corrugated pipe and can be inserted in a socket connecting section, said connecting region being provided, for connecting to said socket connecting section, with at least one, preferably a number of serrated tooth-like profiles (10) which run in the insertion direction for connecting to the socket connecting section and can abut the inner circumference of the socket connecting section.

With respect to claim 22, characterized in that the inner circumference of the socket connecting section is plain-walled, at least in regions, over a full circumference. Refer to Figure 4, wherein, the connecting region is shown inserted into a female plain-walled pipe.

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With respect to claim 23, characterized in that said serrated tooth-like profile has an ascending flank (10) in the insertion direction which is at an acute angle with respect to the insertion direction.

With respect to claim 24, characterized in that the serrated tooth-like profile exhibits a steeply flank (10) on the side facing away from the insertion direction in the socket connecting section.

With respect to claim 25, Yoshiharu et al discloses a corrugated pipe comprising at least one corrugated pipe section (5) and at least one connecting region (2), wherein said connecting region is formed as one piece with said corrugated pipe section and the connecting region is provided with at least one, preferably more serrated tooth-like profiles (10) running in the insertion direction, direction, for connecting to a connecting section.

With respect to claim 26, characterized in that the serrated tooth-like profile (130) has an ascending flank (10) in the insertion direction which is at an acute angle with respect to the insertion direction.

With respect to claim 27, characterized in that the serrated tooth-like profile exhibits a steeply descending flank (10) on the rear side of the ascending flank, said steeply descending flank causing a significant resistance counter to the insertion direction with respect to wrenching forces.

Claims 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Skinner (US 4,222,594).

With respect to claim 21, Skinner discloses a corrugated pipe connecting arrangement comprising a corrugated pipe (12) with corrugations (formed by grooves 16) extended transverse to its longitudinal axis, wherein said corrugated pipe is provided on at least one of its end regions with a connecting region (12) which is formed integrally with the corrugated pipe (after and can be inserted in a socket connecting section (14), said connecting region being provided, for connecting to said socket connecting section, with at least one, preferably a number of serrated tooth-like profiles (22, 24) which run in the insertion direction for connecting to the socket connecting section and can abut the inner circumference of the socket connecting section.

With respect to claim 22, characterized in that the inner circumference of the socket connecting section is plain-walled, at least in regions (at the base of the grooves defining the corrugations), over a full circumference. Refer to Figure 5.

With respect to claim 23, characterized in that said serrated tooth-like profile has an ascending flank (22) in the insertion direction which is at an acute angle with respect to the insertion direction.

With respect to claim 24, characterized in that the serrated tooth-like profile exhibits a steeply flank (24) on the side facing away from the insertion direction in the socket connecting section.

With respect to claim 25, Skinner discloses a corrugated pipe (12) comprising at least one corrugated pipe section (formed by grooves 16) and at least one connecting

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region, wherein said connecting region is formed as one piece with said corrugated pipe section and the connecting region is provided with at least one, preferably more serrated tooth-like profiles (22, 24) running in the insertion direction, direction, for connecting to a connecting section (14).

With respect to claim 26, characterized in that the serrated tooth-like profile (130) has an ascending flank (22) in the insertion direction which is at an acute angle with respect to the insertion direction.

With respect to claim 27, characterized in that the serrated tooth-like profile exhibits a steeply descending flank (24) on the rear side of the ascending flank, said steeply descending flank causing a significant resistance counter to the insertion direction with respect to wrenching forces.

Conclusion

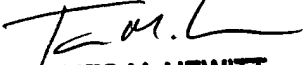
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M. Hewitt whose telephone number is 571-272-7084.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER